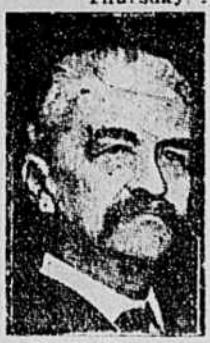


# WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY



Thursday, November 13, 1913.  
FIGURING RESULTS  
BUDGERAND.

A young man writes that he intends to plant an acre in watermelons next spring. He says he has had no experience in growing watermelons, but he figures that if he plants such a crop, there will be big hills, and that each hill will make a regular shower all the summer.

**A. F. MASSEY.** Five shipping melons, and each melon should average 25 cents, making about \$500 for the acre gross, and he thinks the acre should net \$150, and he wants me to know if this is so.

It is a very pretty business to count one's chickens before they hatch, but unfortunately, they do not know the count from the outside. I doubt that you can get any good shipping melons as an average per hill, and very much doubt that you can get an average of 25 cents each. If your figures were correct, it would be folly to stop at a single acre. We have men here who ship hundreds of car loads of watermelons, and none of them, as far as I know, ever made anywhere near \$150 an acre, and, growing on a large scale, they can make them more cheaply than one who has but one acre. You will do very well to figure up some of watermelons. Very early each fall, at 25 cents by the car load, but 10 cents will be nearer the average for the season, and you can plant them 5x10 feet and set more hills in acre. I do not want to discourage you, but I know that you are putting your fingers too high to realize.

**Cotton in James City County.**

"What is the usual price paid for picking cotton?" This question is attempting to revive cotton culture. You see that this is the north for a time, as far as cotton growing. I am out of the cotton country, and do not know the price now paid for picking. Formerly it was 20 cents a peck, but, of late years the scarcity of labor has raised the price up far above this, and farmers are lucky to get it down for 50 cents. If cotton could be kept at the present high price, it might pay to grow cotton in James City. But taking the average prices for ten years, cannot see that cotton can be made profitable. The cost of labor is high, but Greenbrier County is about the same. North in Southeastern Virginia, as cotton can be made a money crop. Some years ago, when cotton had been raised to a high price, a farmer in Pittsylvania wrote to me for advice about growing cotton there. I told him the chances were that he would fail to make it pay at all. He replied that they grew cotton in Greenbrier County, in the same latitude, but I reminded him that latitude does not always make climate, and that elevation over the sea controls many of our latitudes. In our warm sandy soil, as in the Southeastern corner of Maryland, cotton can be grown, but no one could ever make it a commercial success.

Two years ago they made some cotton at the experiment farm of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in the lower end of Delaware, about ten miles north of here. But it was a very short staple and poor crop. Our climate is not the same, it is really inferior to yours in James City, though you are south of us. Small patches of cotton were common in the Eastern Shores my boyhood, but no one has ever tried to raise it commercially, though I know of one very good crop being made two years ago in Northampton County. But the grower has not repeated it. I think.

**Starting Poor Land for Blue-Cured Tobacco.**

Erinwick County: "Will you please tell me how you would start now with poor land to get it in shape for growing blue-cured tobacco for 1915-16?" It depends on what character of land the poor land is. If it is clay soil, it will not grow well, unless you add no matter what preparation you give it. If it is gray, sandy soil, you can prepare it for the growing of bright tobacco in 1914, if you sow rye on it and fertilize it, say 50 pounds of dried blood and 40 pounds of high-grade sulphate of potash to make a top. With the organic matter plowed under, this will make a good crop of tobacco on the poorest sandy land. Then by pulling and curving the leaves, and letting the stalks stand, you can sow crimson clover on the land and have a good crop to turn under for corn in the spring.

**Organizing a Produce Exchange.** "Would you kindly advise us in regard to the method of organizing a produce exchange? Conditions with the farmers are bad and getting worse; the farmers are practically owned by commission men, who have mortgages and bills of sale on all they have, and are expecting to close out some of what they have to be due to commission men, shippers and packers, and Baltimore is getting to be the poorest market for trade." We have thought of getting a meeting and having some one familiar with the work of the exchanges, perhaps the managers of the Eastern Shore Virginia Exchange. If you could get your farmers together and then get Mr. Burton, the general manager of the Eastern Virginia Linen Exchange to come to you and tell you about what they have done, and comes and Northampton, it would be the best way to get the idea of organization. Burton's address is Oneida Avenue, Oneida, N. Y., and he probably has printed matter to show you. His exchange has enriched those two counties, and another organization would be valuable on the Western Shore.

**Concrete Slabs.** "Will a concrete slab sufficiently last on a wooden one to warrant the extra cost?" My experiences with concrete slabs has been that the instant compensation on the wooden walls damaged the slings next the walls. Now the Department of Agriculture is claiming that the slings next the walls are to be removed, coating the cement walls with lime or lime mortar. I never had any difficulty, but have the constant moisture that may damage to the slings. I believe that a wooden roll keeps silage better than a concrete one, and that in the long run the wooden slab is the cheaper, not only in first cost, but the smaller amount of labor required. The advocates of the concrete slab have taken me to task as a back number, and claim that the concrete slab is perfect in keeping the silage. If I wrote it now, the more I thought of it, the more I would forget all about it and be writing the same question again. Hence, it is always best to make these suggestions reasonable.

Please give full directions in The Times-Dispatch on growing onions. When to plant, what to use to manure, how many seed or sets are needed. **Onions.**

"Please give full directions in The Times-Dispatch on growing onions. When to plant, what to use to manure, how many seed or sets are needed.

## When Are You Going to Get That Victor-Victrola

Why not come in and see about it to-day?

And when we gladly arrange easy terms so that you can enjoy it while you are paying for it, there's surely no reason why you should be without one of these wonderful musical instruments.

Come to our store and let us show you the different styles of the Victor-Victrola.

**Victors, \$10 to \$100.**

**Victrolas, \$15 to \$200.**

**Walter D. Moses & Co.,**  
103 E. Broad Street.  
Oldest Music House in Virginia  
and North Carolina.

## DETECTIVES SEEK BRANDT SLAYER

Only Clue Is Robe, Which Looks Like One Seen on Negro.

Special to The Times-Dispatch.

Lynchburg, Va., November 12.—With the coroner's inquest throwing no light on the murder of Henry Brandt, the Southern Railway pumpman at Moneta, the Lynchburg Southern Railway detective, aided by the county and police, are actively at work in an effort to unravel the mystery surrounding the old man's death.

There is no clue to the perpetration of the crime, gave a lap robe, which was found in the engine-room when the body was discovered, and this tailles with a robe which was seen on a negro Sunday night near the scene of the crime. The authorities believe this negro committed the crime and made his escape as quickly as he seems to have been a jockey, there is little chance to apprehend him.

Brandt's body was taken this afternoon to his home at Lawyers, from the funeral will take place tomorrow.

### Charter Issued.

The following charter was issued by the State Corporation Commission yesterday:

**Charter No. 1.**

**Local—Daily—Norfolk, Va., Sun.**

**Local—Daily—Norfolk, Old Point,**

**Local—Daily—Norfolk, Old Point,**